Llewelyn ap Cynric (c. 1300–c. 1343)

Origin and Family

Born c. 1300. Died c. 1343.

Father: Cynric ap Osborn Wyddel (c. 1270–c. 1343)
Mother: Unknown
Spouse: Nest or Nesta, daughter of Griffith ap Adda of Dolgoch

Children:[1]
Griffith ap Llewelyn (c. 1325–c. 1399)

Llewelyn ap Cynric was the third of six generations that were estate holders of Cors-y-Gedol, a 200 year span. Llewelyn was the sole heir to his father's estate, which he inherited around 1320.

From Rodney Horace Yale[1]: "Llewelyn ap Cynrik married Nest, or Nesta, daughter and coheir of Griffith ap Adda of Dolgoch, in the parish of Towyn, and of Ynys-y-Maengwyn, Co Merioneth, a Collector of the Fifteenth, 1294, Raglot (Governor) of the Commote of Estimaner 3 and 7 Edward III; Living 17 Edward III, derived from Madoc, son of Cadivor ap Gwaethvoed, Lord of Cardigan. By this lady Llewelyn has an eldest son, Griffith ap Llewelyn."

To clarify, Llewelyn was not a Collector of the Fifteenth or Raglot of Estimaner. These references are to his father-in-law Griffith ap Adda.

Occupation and Property

Llewelyn ap Griffith was the landholder of Cors-y-Gedol.

Nesta was the daughter of Griffith ap Adda, Lord of Ynys-y-Maengwyn and other estates. Some sources incorrectly describe Llewelyn's grandfather Osborn Wyddel as holding this estate, but Llewelyn acquired it through his marriage to Nesta. However, the estate was not passed on to Llewelyn's son Griffith ap Llewelyn as part of his inheritance.

LLewelyn's income primarily derived from estate rents and the use of pastoral land managed by tenant farmers on Cors-y-Gedol and Ynys-y-Maengwyn.

In the early 1300's, Merioneth's economy was based on a combination of cattle and crops. The only source of fertilizer for the crops was manure, so a balance was needed between pasture and farm land. Apparently, over farming reduced the pasture land to the point where this balance was upset, resulting in crop failures. This 'agrarian crisis' seems to have affected Merioneth, and its population and wealth declined during this period.[2,3] In 1318, the county was assessed at 227 pounds, far less than the 566 pounds assessed in 1294.[3]

"It is clear that the famine years following 1315 exposed the shortcomings of the Wales pastoral economy in no uncertain manner: 'A great dearth of victuals' was then reported in North West Wales."[3]

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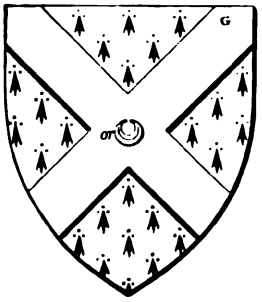
Griffith ap Adda received a rare honor in the parish church of Towyn: “It is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, church in North Wales. It is a plain, cruciform early Norman building without a trace of ornament. The low massive piers are built of rude rubble work. In the north wall of the chancel, under canopies of the fourteenth century, are the effigies of a knight and an ecclesiastic. The knight was Griffith ap Adda of Dolgoch, near Towyn, and a man of importance in the time of Edward III.”[5]



The Coat of Arms of Llewelyn ap Cynrik

The coat of arms attributed to Llewelyn ap Cynrik is shown above, although 15th-century heralds may have applied it to him retroactively to support claims of Irish Fitzgerald descent. There is no contemporary evidence that shows Llewelyn bore these arms or any arms at all during his lifetime. See “Further Readings” for more information on the Yale Coat of Arms.

End of Life

Llewelyn ap Cynric died about 1343.[6]

The cause of death for Llewelyn is unknown, but it is possible he died in military service. During his life, there was no shortage of military actions, both in Wales and abroad – mainly in Scotland and France. “There were 5,000 Welshmen in Edward II’s army at Bannockburn in 1314, and 6,200 served in the Scottish campaign of 1322. There were 4,000 Welsh soldiers in Gascony in 1326. At Crecy, they were dressed in green and white, perhaps the first national uniform in the history of European warfare.”[2]

Research Notes

Online Genealogy References:
WikiTree ID: Cymric-1
FamilySearch ID: 9HPF-D8Q

Further Reading:
- Yale, Max Brian. *Guide to the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection*. *Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection.* 2025
- Yale, Max Brian. *Yale Family Coat of Arms* - Origin and History. *Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection*, 2025

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References

1. Yale, Rodney Horace. *Yale Genealogy and History of Wales*. Beatrice, NE: Milburn & Scott, 1908. Ref no. 9 p. 76

2. Davies, John. *A History of Wales*, London, England: Penguin Press, 1990.

3. Williams-Jones, Keith. “The Merioneth Lay Subsidy Roll 1292-3”, Cardiff, Wales: University of Wales Press, 1976

4. Lloyd, Jacob Youde William (1881). "The History of the Princes, the Lords Marcher, and the Ancient Nobility of Powys Fadog: And the Ancient Lords of Arwystli, Cedewen, and Meirionydd". T. Richard, Printers. p. 211.

5. Archaeologia Cambrensis Journal , Fourth Series, Vol. VI (1875), pp. 4 and 211–212.

6. Stirnet Genealogy Online Web Site

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